

PRESS RELEASE

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Massachusetts Rural Water Association Opens New Doors in Northfield

AMHERST, MA – USDA Rural Development State Director, David Tuttle joined Congressman John Olver and the President of the National Rural Water Association for the opening celebration of the Massachusetts Rural Water Association's new office on Main Street in Northfield today.

The Massachusetts Rural Water Association (MassRWA) is a non-profit trade association of rural water and wastewater systems. It is a nationally recognized Rural Water Association and the preferred provider of training and on-site assistance for small systems in Massachusetts. MassRWA field representatives provide water and wastewater training and on-site technical assistance to members year round. Field representatives provide advice on such issues as preventative maintenance, leak detection, water audits, rate analysis, budgeting, personnel policies and many other topics.

MassRWA also helps water systems and communities to understand and protect their drinking water sources by evaluating contamination issues and completing source protection plans. The organization also provides assistance with hydrogeologic studies, sanitary surveys and outreach to schools, watershed groups, and local boards.

The National Rural Water Association, which provides funding for each state's Rural Water Association, has operated its Wastewater Technician Program under USDA Rural Development's Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training program since 1988. The program has expanded over the years to provide full-time wastewater technical assistance and training in all of the 48 contiguous States and in Puerto Rico.

In 2005, USDA Rural Development provided the National Rural Water Association with \$10,370,274 in order to continue the current Wastewater Technician program.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided over \$58.5 million in assistance to Massachusetts' rural communities and families.

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